

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action and the Advisory Action provided.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 10-14, 16-18 and 21 are allowable, on page 3 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendment claims 1-9, 15 and 20 will have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 10-14, 16-18 and 21, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable, are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendments, reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicants note that the present amendment cancels all of the claims which are currently rejected, or which have been withdrawn from consideration, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Accordingly, Applicants submit that entry of the present amendment after Final rejection is proper.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, claims 15 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants note that claims 15 and 20 have been canceled by the present amendment, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed to be moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and

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withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

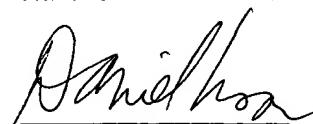
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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